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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/056,806	04/08/1998	ARNO N VERMEULEN	I/97272	5753

7590 05/17/2004

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Patent Department
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1647

Non-Responsive Amendment

1. The reply filed on 3-1-04 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because the response does not provide the proper signature. See 37 CFR 1.111.

Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

2. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this general application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600, Group 1640 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Should applicant wish to FAX a response, the current FAX number for Group 1600 is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon L. Turner, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0894. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz can be reached at (571) 272-0887.



Sharon L. Turner, Ph.D.
May 6, 2004

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5, 13-15, 19, 27, 28, 30 and 32, are allowable, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. If questions should remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 1, 2004
Enclosure: August 5, 2002 Amendment